

FIELD TRIP REPORT OF REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS OFFICER, CAIRO

July 18 - August 1, 1961

I. SYRIA - Damascus

A. Official Contacts

1. Mr. Ridgway B. Knight, Consul General;
2. Mr. Curtis F. Jones, Publications Officer.

B. Bookstores Visited

1. Atlas Bookstore;
2. Al-Yaqazah Bookstore;
3. Sayigh Bookstore;
4. University Bookstore.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

Samara, Haddad & Co., owners of Atlas Bookstore. Dr. Samara is presently director of tourism.

D. Comments

Damascus has put out a fair amount of publications in the past year. An interesting and useful publication which has been acquired is a new military dictionary which RPO believes will be the official one in the UAR since it has been blessed by Marshall Amir. This dictionary is the official Canadian military dictionary. It has been published in French-Arabic by the Military Press of the Northern Region of the UAR, and an English-Arabic edition is promised for next year.

Communist periodicals began to appear here only about two months ago and the following are available in certain bookstores and newsstands:

Soviet Union, in Arabic, French, and English;
Soviet Film, in Arabic, French, and English;
Soviet Woman, in English;
Modern Woman, in French;
Labor and Opinion, in French;
Modern Times, in French;
Soviet Literature, in French and English;
Culture and Life, in French and English.

The RPO was able to obtain some old numbers of Bulgarian and Rumanian magazines in Arabic. All periodicals available in Arabic were purchased.

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There has been no Who's Who in Syria published since 1957.

II. SYRIA - Aleppo

A. Official Contacts

1. Mr. Philip W. Ireland, Consul General;
2. Mr. William M. Clevenger, Publications Officer.

B. Bookstores Visited

1. Aleppo National Library;
2. Rabi' Bookstore;
3. Al-Andalus Bookstore;
4. Arab League Bookstore;
5. Universal Bookstore;
6. Al-Kayyali Bookstore;
7. Abi Firas Bookstore.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

Jalal al-Mallah, Director of Aleppo National Library.

D. Comments

Very few books have been published here, and these were purchased. Mr. Mallah was not aware of having ever received the forty odd publications sent to his library by LC. Upon questioning his two aides, he was informed that these books did arrive but a list which LC promised to send later never had and, therefore, a letter of acknowledgement was withheld pending receipt of this list. He immediately requested that a letter of thanks be sent to LC. He also told RPO that he would be only too glad to buy publications for LC if the latter will so authorize him, providing that he will be responsible for material published in Aleppo only.

Communist periodicals in Arabic are available here. There are also some recent anti-Communist books on the stands and in bookstores, samples of which were purchased.

A listing of the Syrian press is attached (Attachment A).

III. LEBANON - Beirut

A. Bookstores Visited

1. Khayyat Bookstore;
2. Al-Maktabah ash-Sharqiyyah;

3. Sadir

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3. Sadir Bookstore;
4. Roxy Bookstore;
5. Numerous other bookstores and newsstands.

B. Comments

Very little has been produced in the past two months, or since RPO's last visit to this city. Meanwhile, a few Communist publications in Arabic, such as Soviet Union, China Illustrated, Soviet Film, and the magazine, Al-Wagt, have been purchased and forwarded.

LC's arrangement through the Embassy is running smoothly, I was told.

IV. LEBANON - Tripoli

A. Bookstores Visited

1. Al-Arab Bookstore;
2. Al-Hawadith Bookstore;
3. Several newsstands.

B. Comments

RPO was told that nothing is published here. Most publications displayed are those which are available in Beirut. Soviet and Chinese periodicals such as those mentioned in the Beirut report are also available here.

V. LEBANON - Sidon

A. Bookstore Visited

Al-'Urfan Publishing House.

B. Comments

Sidon can boast of Al-'Urfan Publishing House only. No other publishing activity exists here. Al-'Urfan has been putting out Arab historical and ancient biographic material, some of which has been purchased by RPO previously.

Communist periodicals are available also on newsstands here.

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